

**REMARKS**

The Final Office Action dated January 6, 2005 has been carefully considered. Claims 1-30 are pending. The above amendments and the following remarks are presented in a sincere attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. Claims 1, 8, 10, 18, and 20 have been amended in this response. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

An interview was held with the Examiner, Mr. David H. Malzahn, on January 25, 2005, to discuss the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and the proposed amendments thereto. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for his time and the courtesies extended.

Claims 1-3, 8, 10, 18, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Insofar as these rejections may be applied against the amended claims, they should be deemed overcome.

Claim 1 has been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. The "each bit of" language has been removed from line 3 of Claim 1. The word "bit" has been replaced by the word "byte" in lines 7 and 9 of Claim 1. Furthermore, line 7 of Claim 1 has been amended to read "the bit value of which corresponds to the value of the shift amount and shift direction." Amended Claim 1 provides a definite description of the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is apparent that amended Claim 1 does particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention as required under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1 be withdrawn and that amended Claim 1 be allowed.

Claims 2-3 depend upon and further limit amended Claim 1. Hence, for at least the aforementioned reasons, these Claims should also be deemed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 2-3 be withdrawn.

Claim 8 has been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Claim 8 has been amended to read, "The method of Claim 7, wherein the step of performing the shifter function further comprises filling vacated bits with zeros with at least one of a first part and a second part of data input lines that comprise zeros." This amended claim provides a definite description of the shifter function that is described in Claim 7.

In view of the foregoing, it is apparent that amended Claim 8 does particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention as required under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 8 be withdrawn and that amended Claim 8 be allowed.

Claim 10 has been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Claim 10 has been amended to read, "The method of Claim 7, wherein the step of performing the shifter function further comprises the second operand being set to zero to provide a second part of data input lines." This amended claim provides a definite description of the shifter function that is described in Claim 7.

In view of the foregoing, it is apparent that amended Claim 10 does particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention as required under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 10 be withdrawn and that amended Claim 10 be allowed.

Claim 18 has been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Claim 18 has been amended to read, "The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the means for performing the shifter function further comprises filling vacated bits with zeros with at least one of a first part and a second part of data input lines that comprise zeros." This amended claim provides a definite description of the means for performing the shifter function that is described in Claim 17.

In view of the foregoing, it is apparent that amended Claim 18 does particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention as required under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 18 be withdrawn and that amended Claim 18 be allowed.

Claim 20 has been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Claim 20 has been amended to read, "The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the means for performing the shifter function further comprises the second operand being set to zero to provide a second part of data input lines." This amended claim provides a definite description of the means for performing the shifter function that is described in Claim 17.

In view of the foregoing, it is apparent that amended Claim 20 does particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention as required under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 20 be withdrawn and that amended Claim 20 be allowed.

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of Claims 1-30.


Applicants do not believe that any fees are due; however, in the event that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due (other than issue fees), and to credit any overpayment made, in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-0605 of CARR LLP.

Should the Examiner deem that any further amendment is desirable to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

CARR LLP

Dated: 2/24/05  
CARR LLP  
670 Founders Square  
900 Jackson Street  
Dallas, Texas 75202  
Telephone: (214) 760-3030  
Fax: (214) 760-3003

  
Gregory W. Carr  
Reg. No. 31,093